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recherche

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HASELTINE LAKE LONDON	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
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14 JUL 2003	

HASELTINE LAKE LEEDS	
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ORIG TO	RECORDS
COPY TO	RENEWALS
10.07.03	

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. LEB/HL77096	BRIGL TO	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°//Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n° 00307873.0-2413/RECORDS
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur//Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire SEGA CORPORATION		

009

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable. This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC. See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

LEEDS ADMIN

Dur.	10108103
Reminder	226763
Date	0108103
Initials	dm

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

SEARCHED
14 JUL 2003
NOTED



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent EP 00 30 7873
Convention

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages		
X	<p>WO 96 25989 A (VELOCITY INC) 29 August 1996 (1996-08-29)</p> <p>* abstract *</p> <p>* page 2, line 6 - line 17 *</p> <p>* page 5, line 10 - line 28 *</p> <p>* page 7, line 1 - page 8, line 2 *</p> <p>* page 8, line 23 - page 9, line 2 *</p> <p>* page 12, line 8 - page 13, line 8 *</p> <p>* page 17, line 22 - page 18, line 4 *</p> <p>* page 18, line 24 - page 21, line 23 *</p> <p>* claims 1,17,21; figure 6 *</p>	1-4,7-10	A63F13/12 H04L29/06 H04L29/08
X	<p>WO 99 32990 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV ;PHILIPS SVENSKA AB (SE)) 1 July 1999 (1999-07-01)</p> <p>* abstract *</p> <p>* page 3, line 21 - line 29 *</p> <p>* page 4, line 30 - page 5, line 32 *</p> <p>* page 6, line 21 - page 7, line 24 *</p>	1-4,7-10 -/-	
<p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)</p> <p>A63F H04L</p>			
<p>LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION</p> <p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p> <p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
1	Place of search MUNICH	Date of completion of the search 3 July 2003	Examiner Niculiu, R
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 7873

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.)
X	<p>WO 97 43846 A (KOUTS MICHAEL ; MCKELLER DAVID (CA); PLUMB MARC (CA); SHIELDS DANIE) 20 November 1997 (1997-11-20)</p> <p>* abstract *</p> <p>* page 4, line 17 – page 29 *</p> <p>* page 5, line 22 – page 7, line 2 *</p> <p>* page 8, line 27 – line 30 *</p> <p>* page 10, line 26 – page 11, line 22 *</p> <p>* page 12, line 5 – page 13, line 13 *</p> <p>* claims 1,3,5,11; figure 4 *</p>	1-4,7-10	

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 30 7873

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

03-07-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9625989	A	29-08-1996	AU WO	4929096 A 9625989 A2	11-09-1996 29-08-1996	
WO 9932990	A	01-07-1999	US CN EP WO JP	6356288 B1 1252145 T 0981795 A2 9932990 A2 2002528045 T	12-03-2002 03-05-2000 01-03-2000 01-07-1999 27-08-2002	
WO 9743846	A	20-11-1997	US AU WO EP US	6050898 A 2687697 A 9743846 A1 0958687 A1 6390922 B1	18-04-2000 05-12-1997 20-11-1997 24-11-1999 21-05-2002	



European Patent
Office

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
EP 00 30 7873

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of Invention and relates to several inventions or groups of Inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-4,7-10

synchronizing game devices in a network to the longest delay of any of the participating devices; compensating for different network latencies.

2. Claims: 5,6,11,12

displaying an image of objects arranged in a virtual space; rendering of virtual objects.

3. Claims: 13-16

setup of a communication between networked gaming devices.

4. Claims: 17,18

registration of game players.

5. Claims: 19-24

determination of the ranking of players in a network game.